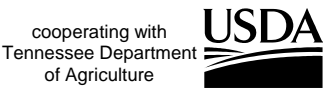




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Agri-News

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AN AMAZING FINAL WHEAT RESULT!

Tennessee wheat growers wrapped up harvest last week and reported surprising and amazing record-breaking yields per acre. The state average yield as compiled by the Tennessee Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service was 60 bushels per acre, up 12 bushels from the forecast yield one month ago, and surpassing the record set in the year 1999 by 4 bushels per acre. With 170,000 acres harvested for grain, production is forecast 10.2 million bushels, down 26 percent from last year and the lowest total since 1991.

Wheat producers were cautiously optimistic prior to harvest and saw only normal potential due to frost damage, disease pressure, and inclement weather. However, it became evident as combines rolled through the fields that the ideal cool, dry conditions during May, coupled with excellent harvest weather, maximized the potential per acre returns.

U.S. WINTER WHEAT

Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.53 billion bushels. This is down 1 percent from last month but 2 percent above 2004. The U.S. yield is forecast at 44.5 bushels per acre, up 0.4 bushel from last month. Area harvested for grain totals 34.3 million acres, unchanged from the *Acreage* report released on June 30, 2005, but down 2 percent from the June 1 forecast.

Hard Red Winter, at 924 million bushels, is down 4 percent from a month ago. Soft Red Winter, at 315 million bushels, is up 5 percent from the last forecast. White Winter is up 1 percent from last month and now totals 287 million bushels. Of this total, 27.0 million bushels are Hard White and 260 million bushels are Soft White.

WINTER WHEAT: TENNESSEE, SURROUNDING STATES, AND U.S., JULY 1, 2005 WITH COMPARISONS ¹

| State | Acreage Harvested | | Yield Per Acre | | Production | |
|------------------|-------------------|------------|----------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| | 2004 | 2005 | 2004 | 2005 | 2004 | 2005 |
| | 1,000 Acres | | Bushels | | 1,000 Bushels | |
| Arkansas | 620 | 165 | 53.0 | 55.0 | 32,860 | 9,075 |
| Georgia | 190 | 160 | 45.0 | 52.0 | 8,550 | 8,320 |
| Kentucky | 380 | 300 | 54.0 | 70.0 | 20,520 | 21,000 |
| Mississippi | 135 | 95 | 53.0 | 48.0 | 7,155 | 4,560 |
| Missouri | 930 | 570 | 52.0 | 57.0 | 48,360 | 32,490 |
| North Carolina | 460 | 440 | 50.0 | 55.0 | 23,000 | 24,200 |
| TENNESSEE | 280 | 170 | 49.0 | 60.0 | 13,720 | 10,200 |
| Virginia | 180 | 170 | 55.0 | 57.0 | 9,900 | 9,690 |
| United States | 34,462 | 34,271 | 43.5 | 44.5 | 1,499,434 | 1,525,302 |

¹ 2005 forecast, 2004 final.

TENNESSEE PEACH CROP DOWN FROM 2004

Tennessee’s 2005 peach crop is forecast at 1,900 tons, down 50 tons from 1,950 tons from last year. Virtually all of the State’s peach crop had reached the budding stage by the first week of April and had reached blooming stage or beyond by the end of the month. Development progressed ahead of last year throughout the season. The peach crop escaped any serious freeze damage.

U.S. PEACH FORECAST

The July 2005 forecast of U.S. peach production is 1.24 million tons, down 5 percent from 2004 and 2 percent below two years ago. Twenty of the 28 peach estimating States expect declines in production from last year, while 8 States increased their production from the previous season.